



JUDICIAL PROFILE

Ruth Hilliard is currently assigned to the Criminal Department. Since her appointment to the Superior Court Bench in 1985, she has handled domestic relations, civil and special assignment calendars. She is a past member of the Court's Civil Study Committee, the Law Library Committee, a special Juror Stress Reduction Task Force and chairperson of the State Bar Subcommittee on DUI Jury Instructions. Judge Hilliard received her B.A. from Connecticut College for Women in 1971 and her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1977. Before attending law school, she worked as an engineering psychologist for the U.S. Department of Defense. After admittance to the Arizona State Bar, she was in private practice in Phoenix from 1977 until 1985. She focused on personal injury law, medical malpractice cases, appellate work, and general civil litigation. She also regularly served as a civil judge pro tem in Superior Court. In January, 1985, Superior Court's then-Presiding Judge Robert Broomfield named her to be a court commissioner and by years' end, she was appointed to a judgeship.



Both her private practice and her judicial career have permitted Judge Hilliard versatile and broad-scoped experience in the law. As such, she is able to handle virtually all case matters in the court with ease. She is a frequent speaker at lawyer training programs sponsored by both the State and County Bar associations. She has also taught at the Arizona Judicial College, a special institute of the Supreme Court that educates new judges. Her community activities have been channeled toward her children's school activities where she has served as a homeroom parent and on various parent/teacher/student committees. She frequently volunteers to speak to students about the legal system and the law as a career. Judge Hilliard is also a lay leader in her religious congregation and was on the congregation's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.